

In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 15 (Canceled).

1 16. (Currently amended) Method for the production of a
2 semifinished product $[(10)]$ of composite material,
3 comprising a coating step in which high tensile strength
4 fibers are coated with titanium or a titanium based alloy
5 to form a coating on the fibers in a reactive atmosphere
6 containing a reactive gas, a thermomechanical treatment
7 step performed on the coated fibers after the coating step,
8 and a consolidating step in which the coated fibers are
9 then consolidated under pressure at high temperature to
10 form the semifinished product, $[(10),]$ characterized in
11 that during the coating step ~~of coating the high tensile~~
12 ~~strength fibers (12) with the titanium or the titanium~~
13 ~~based alloy in the reactive atmosphere,~~ atoms of the
14 reactive gas are introduced into ~~and react with the~~
15 titanium or the titanium based alloy, and then during the
16 thermomechanical treatment step after the coating step the
17 introduced atoms of the reactive gas react with the
18 titanium or the titanium based alloy to form ceramic
19 particles $[(13)]$ embedded in the coating of the fibers,
20 and then during the consolidating step the thusly coated
21 fibers are arranged in a desired geometry and consolidated
22 to form the semifinished product.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

1 18. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 16,
2 characterized in that the reactive atmosphere is a nitrogen
3 atmosphere, whereby nitrogen atoms react with titanium
4 particles or particles of the titanium based alloy to form
5 and deposit the ceramic particles $[(13)]$ into the
6 coating.

1 19. (Currently amended) Method according to claim 18,
2 characterized in that the ceramic particles $[(13)]$
3 comprise particles of titanium nitrides that are deposited
4 into the coating.

1 20. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 16,
2 characterized in that the coating step is carried out as
3 PVD coating.

1 21. (Previously presented) Method according to claim 20,
2 wherein the PVD coating comprises sputtering.

1 22. (Currently amended) A method of making a product of a
2 composite material, comprising the steps:
3 a) providing fibers;
4 b) coating said fibers with a coat of a titanium-based
5 matrix material containing titanium to produce coated
6 fibers, by carrying out a matrix material deposition

7 process in an atmosphere containing a reactive gas,
8 such that first atoms of said reactive gas are
9 introduced from said atmosphere into said coat of said
10 titanium-based matrix material during said deposition
11 process;

12 c) after said step b), performing a thermomechanical
13 treatment of said coated fibers, and during said
14 thermomechanical treatment reacting said first atoms
15 of said reactive gas in said coat with second atoms of
16 said titanium-based matrix material in said coat to
17 form ceramic particles comprising said first and
18 second atoms embedded in said coat; and

19 d) arranging and then consolidating said coated fibers in
20 a specified geometry to form thereof said product of
21 said composite material comprising said fibers and
22 said ceramic particles in a matrix comprising said
23 titanium-based matrix material.

1 23. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said fibers are high tensile strength fibers.

1 24. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said fibers are fibers containing a combination of
3 elements selected from the group consisting of Si, B, Al,
4 C, O, and N.

1 25. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said fibers are fibers of SiC.

1 26. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said titanium-based matrix material is titanium or
3 a titanium-based alloy.

1 27. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 26,
2 wherein said reactive gas is nitrogen gas, said first atoms
3 are nitrogen atoms, said second atoms are titanium atoms,
4 and said ceramic particles are titanium nitride ceramic
5 particles.

1 28. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said reactive gas is nitrogen gas, said first atoms
3 are nitrogen atoms, and said ceramic particles are
4 nitride-based ceramic particles.

1 29. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said ceramic particles have a particle size in a
3 size range from nanometers to microns.

1 30. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29,
2 wherein said size range is below 5 μm .

1 31. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 29,
2 further comprising cooling said coat during said step c),

3 and adjusting said particle size by adjusting a cooling
4 rate of said cooling during said step c).

1 32. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 22,
2 wherein said matrix material deposition process comprises
3 a physical vapor deposition process.

Claims 33 and 34 (Canceled).